

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached two drawing sheets include changes to FIGS. 1, 3 and 4. FIG. 1 is changed by adding number 27 to indicate the cylindrical opening in the component 26. FIG. 3 is changed by adding number 15 to indicate the cylindrical outer surface of the spindle 14; by adding number 27 to indicate the cylindrical opening in the component 26; and by adding number 20 to indicate the formed end that holds the component 26 on the spindle 14. FIG. 4 is changed by adding numbers 15 and 27 to indicate the cylindrical spindle outer surface and the cylindrical opening in the component 26; and by adding number 71a to indicate the outer surface of the deformable annular end portion 71.

REMARKS

In parent application Serial No. 10/195,025, the Final Rejection dated July 16, 2003, rejected claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1 and ¶ 2, as follows:

"A number of descriptive phrases are unclear or self-contradictory. For example:

Where is the "peripheral outside corner" of the "deformable annular end portion" "that is located closely adjacent the outer end face of the component?"

Where is "the peripheral outside corner that is located closely adjacent the outer end face of the component?"

How can the "curved outer end surface on the formed end [be] curved from the peripheral outside corner ... in directions both axially outwardly and radially inwardly?"

If the "formed end ... merges into the ... spindle ... end portion along an outside intersection," how does that "outside intersection ... cut diagonally across ... between the ... end portion ... and the ... end surface of the formed end," when an intersection is by definition a point?"

The Examiner suggested that the claim language should be made clear, "preferably by introducing language in the specification and possible reference numerals that unambiguously indicate what is being referred to." The revisions to the specification that are introduced by this amendment follow the Examiner's suggestion.

The Examiner's examples of alleged noncompliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1 and ¶ 2, in the parent application are individually discussed as follows:

Examiner's Question: Where is the "peripheral outside corner" of the "deformable annular end portion" "that is located closely adjacent the outer end face of the component?"

Answer: The criticism is not well taken because none of the claims recited a "deformable annular end portion" as having a "peripheral outside corner." Instead, the claims recited a "formed end" as having a "peripheral outside corner" "located closely adjacent the outside end face of the component."

The formed end and its characteristics are illustrated and described with reference to FIG. 3. The deformable annular end portion and its characteristics are illustrated and described with reference to FIG. 4. The two are interdependent because the best insurance of obtaining a formed end with the desirable physical characteristics is to start with a deformable annular end portion having the proper configuration.

The claims clearly defined the difference between the "deformable annular end portion" and the "formed end" that is produced after deformation of the deformable annular end portion.

The "peripheral outside corner" of the formed end that is recited in the claims is identified by number 64 in FIG. 3, and the outside end face of the component 26 is identified by number 32 in FIG. 3. The outside corner 64 is identified in lines 15, 19 and 20 of the original specification. The component outside end face is referred to on page 6, lines 1, 2 and 8, and page 8, lines 1 and 10 of the original specification.

Examiner's Question: Where is "the peripheral outside corner that is located closely adjacent the outer end face of the component?"

Answer: This is answered above. The peripheral outside corner and the outer end face of the component are items 64 and 32 in FIG. 3. These items are referred to on pages 6 and 8 of the original specification.

Examiner's Question: How can the "curved outer end surface on the formed end [be] curved from the peripheral outside corner ... in directions both axially outwardly and radially inwardly?"

Answer: With reference to FIG. 3, a point that starts at outside corner 64 and travels along curved surface 60 is moving both axially outwardly along the spindle axis and radially inwardly toward the spindle axis.

Examiner's Question: If the "formed end ... merges into the ... spindle ... end portion along an outside intersection," how does that "outside intersection ... cut diagonally across ... between the ... end portion ... and the ... end surface of the formed end," when an intersection is by definition a point?"

Answer: By definition, an intersection is not necessarily a point. It is common to refer to the crossing of two physical features that cross one another as an intersection. By way of example, a sewer line that crosses under a highway or railroad track commonly is said to intersect the railroad track or highway. Two modern interstate highways that cross commonly are referred to as intersecting when in fact one simply passes over the other. Highways commonly are referred to as intersecting a city from the North or from some other compass direction, and such an intersection is not a point.

A definition of "intersect" from the 1986 edition of Webster's Third New International Dictionary follows:

¹**in·ter·sect**\,intə(r)'sekt\ *vb* -ED/-ING/-S [*L intersectus*, past part. of *intersecare*, fr. *inter-* + *secare* to cut — more at *SAW*] *vt* **1:** to pierce or divide by passing through or across (a line or area): *CROSS* <any two diameters of a circle intersect each other> <canals intersect the city in every direction —*Encyc. Americana*> **2:** to determine the position of by triangulation <opportunity was taken to intersect some twenty odd peaks —*Geo. Jour.*> **3:** to write (as a shorthand stroke) so as to cut across another or be cut across by another intersect *vi* **1:** to meet and

cross at a point <intersecting roads> 2: to cut into one another so as to share an area in common: OVERLAP <where positive law and morals intersect —Herbert Agar>
2: intersect: a point or curve of intersection

It is only the second and more limited definition of "intersect" in the bottom line of the above definition that means a point. In the main definition, "canals intersect the city in every direction" does not define a point.

The definition of "intersection" from the same dictionary follows:

in·ter·sec·tion \, = 'sekshə, in sense 3 "or" = = \ n -s [L intersection-, *intersectio*, fr. *intersectus* + *-ion-*, *-io -ion*] 1: an act, state, or place of intersecting <understand the intersection of visible with invisible worlds —Stephen Spender> 2: the set of elements common to two or more sets; *esp*: the set of points common to two geometric configurations (as lines, surfaces, or volumes) 3: a place where two or more highways join or cross; *specif*: an area of potential collision between vehicles traveling on different roadways that cross

An intersection can be relatively abstract as in the "intersection of visible with invisible worlds" in the definition of "intersection," and as in the example of "where positive law and morals intersect" in the definition of "intersect."

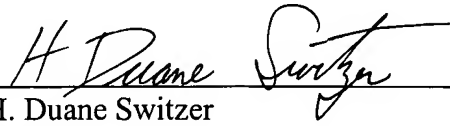
There is nothing indefinite or unclear in the use of the word "intersection" in the claims, and any person of ordinary skill in the art who is familiar with the disclosure would immediately know what is meant.

Specification Revisions

Applicants feel that the claims are crystal clear and readily understandable to any person of ordinary skill in the art by referring to the original specification and drawings. Nevertheless, the specification has been revised, in some cases with repetitive or redundant material, in an attempt to comply with the Examiner's wishes so that only the merits of the claims can be focused on without the unnecessary distraction of formal matters. Reference numbers also have

been inserted in the claims, and it is understood that the use of reference numbers has no effect on the scope of the claims as indicated in Section 608.01(m) of the M.P.E.P.

Respectfully submitted,



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